

Message

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Subject: NCEA Weekly Report: 6/27 - 7/8



National Center for Environmental Assessment Weekly Report: June 27 – July 8

Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) **Public Meetings, Workshops, and Events:**

- During the month of June, NCEA held four public peer input webinars to solicit input on preliminary written materials being prepared for the first draft Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Particulate Matter (PM). PM is one of six principal (or criteria) air pollutants for which EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Twenty invited experts from multiple scientific disciplines provided highly useful written and verbal input on multiple topics including atmospheric chemistry, exposure, modes of action, dosimetry, health effects, and welfare effects, including effects on climate, visibility, materials, and ecological effects. As a whole, the expert panelists were impressed with the volume of new literature under review and thought the assessment was on the right track. Valuable technical input and guidance was received during these workshops which will help shape the first draft PM ISA scheduled for public release in 2017 with subsequent public review by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).
- On June 29 and 30, NCEA held a public science meeting to discuss draft IRIS assessments of benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) and tert-Butyl alcohol (t-butanol). Topics included approaches to estimate the risk of skin cancer following dermal exposure to BaP and a review of thyroid effects and kidney carcinogenicity associated with t-butanol.
- On June 29, representatives from two non-government organizations (NGO), Earthjustice and the Natural Resources Defense Council, met with OSA, RAF and NCEA (John Vandenberg) to discuss their

concerns about EPA consideration of aggregate risk in guidance documents and in program office regulatory actions. The NGO representatives provided examples of aggregate risk concerns related to inorganic arsenic, flame retardants, and chlorpyrifos exposures to susceptible populations, and their view that the regulatory programs are not adequately considering these aggregate risks in decision making. The role of ORD in development and review of risk assessments and the status of aggregate risk guidance were discussed. EPA representatives conveyed that the concerns and points raised by the NGOs would be conveyed to the Science Advisor (Tom Burke) and others.

- On July 8, a public meeting has been scheduled in LaPlace, Louisiana to discuss the EPA evaluation of potential population risks from emissions of chloroprene from a chemical facility (“Denka”). The facility was identified in the National Air Toxics Assessment (December 2015) as the highest risk facility in the US, leading to ambient air monitoring in the vicinity of the facility. Representatives from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Health, EPA Region 6, OAQPS, ORD and Denka are anticipated to participate. John Vandenberg (NCEA) is anticipated to participate in the public meeting to address any questions regarding the IRIS assessment of chloroprene, completed in 2010.

Air, Climate, and Energy (ACE)

Public Meetings, Workshops, and Events:

- On June 28th Dr. Chris Weaver gave a talk to the National Capital Planning Commission Climate Science Task Group, entitled, “Federal Interagency Sea Level Change Scenarios and Designing with Uncertainty.”

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